

Proclamation 6293 of May 15, 1991

Emergency Medical Services Week, 1991 and 1992

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Each year millions of Americans require immediate medical attention for illnesses and injuries. The Department of Health and Human Services reports that, on an average day in the United States, more than 170,000 men, women, and children are injured seriously enough to require professional emergency treatment. Responding to the needs of these Americans are members of the Nation's emergency medical services (EMS) systems.

Members of the Nation's EMS teams help to save thousands of lives each year by providing swift, specialized care for seriously ill and injured persons. The highly dedicated and specially trained paramedics, physicians, nurses, and medical technicians who serve on these teams are supported in their work by a vital network of transport specialists, dispatchers, administrators, and instructors. Thanks to the expertise and the hard work of all of these men and women, Americans are assured high quality emergency medical care.

Today emergency medical care providers are available on a 24-hour basis to anyone who needs immediate medical attention. Both professional and volunteer members of EMS teams respond to calls for help at all hours, often while working under difficult and even hazardous conditions.

In addition to their courageous, lifesaving efforts in the field, EMS personnel have made many important contributions to education and research in trauma care and cardiopulmonary resuscitation. They have also played an integral role in educating the public about accident prevention and wellness. For example, members of the Nation's EMS teams have helped to inform citizens of all ages about the dangers of drunk driving and the need to use automobile safety belts, child restraints, and motorcycle helmets.

This week we proudly salute the Nation's EMS personnel and gratefully acknowledge their outstanding contributions to the health and safety of their fellow Americans.

The Congress, by House Joint Resolution 109, has designated the weeks beginning May 12, 1991, and May 10, 1992, as "Emergency Medical Services Week" and has authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of these occasions.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE BUSH, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim the week of May 12 through May 18, 1991, and the week of May 10 through May 16, 1992, as Emergency Medical Services Week. I call upon all Americans to observe this week with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this fifteenth day of May, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-one,

and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and fifteenth.

GEORGE BUSH

Proclamation 6294 of May 17, 1991

National Maritime Day, 1991

By the President of the United States of America
A Proclamation

Members of the American merchant marine carry on a long and distinguished tradition of service to our country. In addition to promoting the economic development of the United States through trade and commerce, our merchant seafarers have also provided vital support to our Armed Forces during times of conflict.

America's merchant sailors first proved their courage and mettle—and their value in military operations—during the Revolutionary War, when commercial vessels supplemented the 34 ships of the Continental Navy. These merchant vessels virtually immobilized enemy shipping and, in so doing, hastened the end of the war and the beginning of American Independence. During World War II, more than 6,000 of this Nation's civilian seafarers lost their lives as they helped to transport troops and to maintain supply lines to U.S. and Allied forces around the world. Today we are proud to salute the brave merchant mariners who served this Nation during that epic conflict.

Recent events have fostered renewed pride in America's merchant seafarers: providing essential support for Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, these individuals played a key role in the liberation of Kuwait. More than 90 percent of the materiel needed by our troops was transported by sea, and merchant vessels carried a significant portion of these goods. In addition to the merchant mariners who served on commercial ships during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, more than 3,000 civilian sailors manned the Ready Reserve Force vessels that are maintained by the Department of Transportation for such contingencies.

The recent coalition victory in the Persian Gulf has demonstrated, once again, the importance of the American merchant marine to maintaining an adequate and reliable sea lift capacity for the United States. It has also underscored the patriotism and the devotion to duty shared by generations of U.S. merchant mariners. On this occasion, we gladly salute our Nation's civilian seafarers, our port terminal operators, and all those who serve in our vital maritime industries.

In recognition of the importance of the U.S. merchant marine, the Congress, by joint resolution approved May 20, 1933, has designated May 22 of each year as "National Maritime Day" and has authorized and requested the President to issue annually a proclamation calling for its appropriate observance. This date was chosen to commemorate the day in 1819 when the SS SAVANNAH left Savannah, Georgia, on the first transatlantic steamship voyage.